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12 May 1952

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

From: Legislative Counsel

Subject: Use of Congressional Committees
for propaganda purposes.

1. On 10 May I called upon Majority Leader, Congressman McCormack, at his request. He is interested in CIA's evaluation of the propaganda value abroad of the Congressional Committee investigating the Katyn Massacre. From what Mr. McCormack had learned from the press and talking to the Chairman and Counsel of the Committee it was Mr. McCormack's opinion that the Committee's overseas investigation had been extremely successful from the standpoint of favorable United States propaganda. This led Mr. McCormack to speculate as to whether it might not be helpful if other Congressional investigations might be undertaken with a view towards utilizing them for psychological warfare purposes.

2. In particular, Mr. McCormack was considering the possibility of a special Congressional Committee to investigate atrocities against American soldiers in Korea, with broad enough authority to include examining into the germ warfare charges, with the thought that this might give the United States a good propaganda springboard abroad. Part of the hearings would be held in the Far East.

3. Mr. McCormack stated that this idea had originated in a discussion between himself and the Counsel of the Katyn Massacre Committee [redacted] and that he had not discussed it except with Mr. Mitchell and myself. I believe he would like some informal expression of our views in this matter.

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Walter L. Pforzheimer

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